

Hawaii MARINE

INSIDE	
Admin Separations	A-2
1/12 at Schofield	A-3
New Combat Boots	A-4
Lee University Choir	A-5
Recruiting Duty	B-1
MCCS & SM&SP	B-2
Asian Crafts	B-2
Menu	B-3
MAG-24 Triathlon	C-1
Sports Briefs	C-2
Sports Around the Corps	C-3
Health & Fitness	C-6

Volume 32, Number 20

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

May 23, 2003

SECNAV expresses his pride to K-Bay

Newly returned Marines and Sailors speak with SECNAV

Lance Cpl.
Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

The Honorable Hansford T. Johnson, secretary of the Navy, came to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Monday to talk to Marines and Sailors who have recently returned from deployments and to get a first-hand look at the facilities on base.

Before coming to MCB Hawaii, Johnson met with Governor Linda Lingle and discussed current issues affecting the military today.

"The governor is a very

strong supporter of Marines and Sailors," said Johnson while he spoke to Marines and Sailors from different units at Hanger 103. "She is proud of each of you as if you were a part of her own family. She couldn't be a stronger supporter of our Armed Forces."

Johnson was able to visit different units across MCB Hawaii before departing. His first stop was to the Waterfront Operations where he met Sailors who are responsible for keeping the waters surrounding base safe.

Johnson's next stop was to the new and improved Air Traffic Control center. While in the tower, Johnson spoke to Sailors who regulate all flights coming in and out of MCB

See SECNAV, A-8



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Johnson talks with Sailors in the Air Traffic Control Tower during his visit to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, about the new and improved equipment available to them.

OIF vets receive heroes' welcome

Cpl. **Luis R. Agostini**
MarForPac Public Affairs

Thirty-nine Marines from 1st Radio Battalion received a warm welcome home at the Honolulu International Airport late Monday evening as they returned from a three-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Friends and family, anticipating the return of the Kaneohe Bay warriors, decorated portions of the baggage claim area with "Welcome Home" banners and American flags, patiently waiting to catch the first glimpse of their loved ones and brothers-in-arms.

Nicholas and Jessa Thompson, children of CWO3 Sean Thompson, Radio Reconnaissance Platoon commander, 1st Radio Bn., spent the majority of their time at the airport sitting on the edge of the baggage carousel, waiting for dad to come back.

"He missed my birthday," said 10-year old-Jessa, "but we are going to have a birthday lunch when he comes back. He promised."

At approximately 10:30 p.m., weary, but sharp-looking men, most clad in polo shirts, khaki shorts, sandals and sporting regulation haircuts, began filtering sporadically through the masses of airline passengers into the baggage

claim area, and there was no mistaking who these men were.

The crowd greeted the heroes with resonating applause. As soon as they saw their Marines, the women and children sprinted into the arms of their OIF veterans, a few who had been waiting for this moment for more than six months.

After embracing his wife, Brooke, Lance Cpl. Steven Hunsaker, an Arabic linguist with Bravo Co., 1st Radio Bn., laid eyes on his infant daughter for the first time.

"It's such a great feeling," said Hunsaker. "I'm looking forward to spending time with my family."

During their three-month deployment, the Kaneohe Bay-based Marines injected some local flavor into the Middle East. The unit's innovative thinking and local ties prompted 1st Radio Bn. to transform a portion of Camp Commando, Kuwait, to "Camp Hale Koa," the Hawaiian phrase for "house of warriors."

1st Radio Battalion's mission is to provide communications support for Marine Corps intelligence organizations and to conduct electronic warfare.

During OIF, 1st Radio Bn. supported forces in both Kuwait and Iraq, and half

See 1stRAD, A-8



Cpl. Luis R. Agostini

After embracing his wife, Brooke, Lance Cpl. Steven Hunsaker, an Arabic linguist with 1st Radio Bn., laid eyes on his infant daughter for the first time.

Stop-loss, stop-move now lifted

Lance Cpl.
Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

With the recent termination of the stop-loss/stop-move policy, many changes of duty stations and discharges will take place for all duty stations abroad.

The Marine Corps-wide stop loss policy was phased out and terminated for active duty and reserve component Marines.

This may require local commanders to conduct unit-to-unit reassignment of individual Marines in order to ensure that the end of current contract of assigned Marines is synchronized with planned deployment schedules.

Those Marines stationed in Hawaii who have a planned separation date prior to Sept. 30 must be returned to their permanent duty station no later than June 15.

Marines with a planned separation date after Sept. 30 must be returned to their permanent duty station no later than 90 days before their planned separation date.

Marines stationed in Hawaii who are past their planned separation date, or who will reach their planned separation date within 90 days of the date the stop loss was terminated, will separate no later than 90 days from the date the stop loss was terminated.

The Marines who are stationed in Hawaii or the continental United States with a planned separation date that is 91 or more days from the date the stop loss was terminated will separate as currently planned.

Marines who are forward deployed with a planned separation date that is more than 91 days after the stop loss was terminated will separate as planned as well.

Dead reservist identified as K-Bay Marine

Press Release
MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office

MCB HAWAII, Oahu — The body of a man found washed ashore on Coconut Island in Kaneohe Bay May 17, has been identified as Sgt. David Xiong.

Sergeant Xiong was 24 years old and a native of Macomb, Michigan. He was a reserve Marine serving with Headquarters Battalion, MCB Hawaii in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is working closely with the Honolulu Police Department on the investigation.

New Marine Corps order makes daily driving safer

Press Release
MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office

According to a new Marine Corps order (5100.19E), several changes will be taking place aboard installations, Corps wide, that will positively affect the safety of daily driving both to civilian and military members.

"These changes will enhance safety, prevent injuries and save lives," said Danny Tolentino, deputy safety director for MCB Hawaii. "By putting the new Headquarters directed safety policies into a routine practice, it will enhance mission readiness through mishap prevention."

Operators of privately owned vehicles on Marine Corps installations shall not use cellular phones while the vehicle is in operation, unless they are using

a hands-free device. A hands-free device is a feature that is included or available with most of today's cellular telephones that permits a driver to use it without lifting or holding the handset to the driver's ear.

On all installations, vehicles will be operated with headlights turned on during periods of precipitation and other reduced visibility conditions, whether or not it is required by state or national law. Examples are, but not limited to, during periods of light or heavy rain, or during periods of obscuration due to fog or smoke.

Besides during periods of reduced visibility, reflective clothing is now required before morning colors and after evening colors when conducting phys-

See ORDER, A-8

MCBH News Briefs

NEW LEGISLATION PASSED TO HELP SERVICE MEMBERS MOVE

Recently, a bill was passed by Hawaii’s 22nd Legislature and approved by Hawaii Governor, Linda Lingle that ensures service members have the right to remove from the island, after their tour of duty, a vehicle or vehicles purchased here under a contract without the consent of the seller unless other arrangements by the involved parties have agreed to other terms separate from the contract, stating that the vehicle may not be removed.

SUNSET CEREMONY SCHEDULED TODAY AT PWM

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, will host a Sunset Ceremony at the Pacific War Memorial today at 6:30 p.m. Open to the public, the event will feature marching and concert performances by the Marine Forces Pacific Band and remarks from Commanding General Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee.

Guests are invited to bring blankets or lawn chairs and enjoy the evening ceremony. Parking will be available; however, a shuttle service will be run from the Enlisted Club to the PWM. Call 257-8840 for more.

CREDO RETREATS AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY, DOD

The Chaplain’s Religious Enrichment Development Operations, or CREDO, is offering both marriage enrichment retreats and personal growth retreats to service members aboard MCB Hawaii who may be returning from deployments such as Operation Iraqi Freedom and service members who are desiring to improve their relationships with others, feel good about themselves, grow personally and spiritually, and live a more harmonious life.

The next CREDO marriage enrichment retreat is slated for July 11 - 13; the next personal growth retreat is July 24 - 27.

Also, Marine Corps Community Services will be providing courses for returning, formerly deployed service members. Return and reunion briefs are scheduled for May 16 at 6 p.m., May 22 at 12:30 p.m., May 29 at 6 p.m., and June 5 at 12:30 p.m. All return and reunion briefs will be held at the Religious Education Center, Bldg. 1090. For more details, call 257-0662.

Hawaii MARINE

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NDRB examines discharges

(Editor’s Note: This article, Part II in a two-part series, educates Marines and Sailors about administrative separations. In Part I, last week, Kirby corrected misinformation about filing applications. The research discussed herein is merely a brief synopsis of the process and rights available. Service members should consult an attorney for complete details.)

Richard Kirby
Protocol Officer, MCB Hawaii

Applicants applying for upgrades of their administrative separations have used various reasons why their discharge should be upgraded.

Many indicate their reason for discharge was due to an isolated incident. However, before the Navy Discharge Review Board makes its final decision, it gathers available information on the case. In many cases, the individual's record reflects several incidents of misconduct in the record book.

It is advisable that, should you be administratively separated, you obtain a copy of the discharge package, so that when you petition the NDRB, you have correct facts.

In several NDRB cases I researched, I noticed that the board was not able to obtain the discharge package when making its decision. Without having the package, the NDRB then presumed regularity in the conduct of government affairs — another reason why you should obtain a complete

copy of your discharge package.

Other reasons applicants request that their discharge be upgraded include marital difficulties, financial problems, alcohol problems, drug problems, mental problems, the stigmatism of the character of discharge, loss of medical or unemployment benefits, double jeopardy, loss of the GI Bill, incorrect diagnosis, and/or inadequate counsel from their defense attorney.

Many applicants have provided various documents in support of their application, to include college transcripts, employment history, motor vehicle records, character references, results of drug tests, and even their daughter's honor roll certificate.

Here are some of the NDRB answers to these applications:

- The Board has no authority to upgrade a discharge for the sole purpose of enhancing employment opportunities as requested in the issue.
- The applicant used illegal drugs. Drug abuse warranted processing for separation, normally under other than honorable conditions. The discharge was proper and equitable.
- The fact that the applicant received a summary courts martial, and was involuntarily separated for this offense, was both proper and equitable.
- It must be noted that most



Marines and Sailors serve honorably and well, and therefore earn honorable discharges. In fairness to those Marines and Sailors, commanders and separation authorities are tasked to ensure that undeserving service members receive no higher characterization than is due.

•The Veterans Administration determines eligibility for post-service benefits, not the NDRB. There is no requirement or law that grants recharacterization solely on the issue of obtaining veterans' benefits, and this issue does not serve to provide a foundation upon which the Board can grant relief."

Service members are not discouraged from petitioning the NDRB.

However, Marines and Sailors should be informed about the consequences of their actions, and I believe individuals should take full advantage of their rights, both during and after the administrative separation process.

When reviewing applications for several Web sites — such as boards.law.af.mil — it becomes readily apparent that the characterization and reason of discharge have affected employment opportunities of some former service members.

Don't let yourself become involved in a situation where "turning back the clock" will be next to impossible.

Corpsmen inspect Samaesang facilities

Surgical Co., BSSG-3, conducts random walk throughs during Cobra Gold

Sgt Alexis R. Mulero
CSSG-3

ROYAL THAI MARINE BASE CAMP SAMAESANG, Kingdom of Thailand — Providing health service support for more than 2,500 Marines and Sailors of Operation Cobra Gold can be a daunting task for any medical detachment.

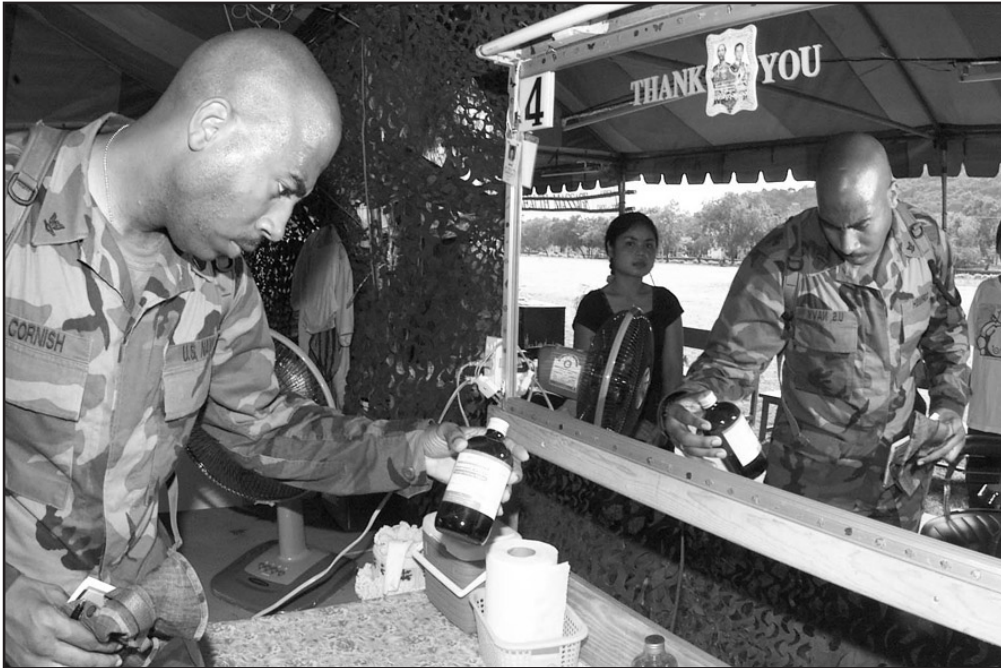
The preventative medicine personnel from Surgical Co., Brigade Service Support Group 3, attempts to make this overwhelming task less complex by conducting random walk through inspections of the vending facilities on camp.

“Our ultimate goal is to keep the Marines and Sailors healthy, so they can perform their mission or task,” said Navy Lt. David Veenhuis, environmental health officer Surgical Co., BSSG-3.

During their walk throughs, the Sailors inspect the local outdoor food vendors for proper storage of rations, silverware and afterwards educating them on proper sanitation.

“No matter how much we inspect, the possibility of service members getting sick is always present,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Maurice Cornish, a preventative medicine technician with BSSG-3. “Performing these inspections greatly reduces the potential of illness for our Marines and Sailors.”

The Sailors also inspected the bar-



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

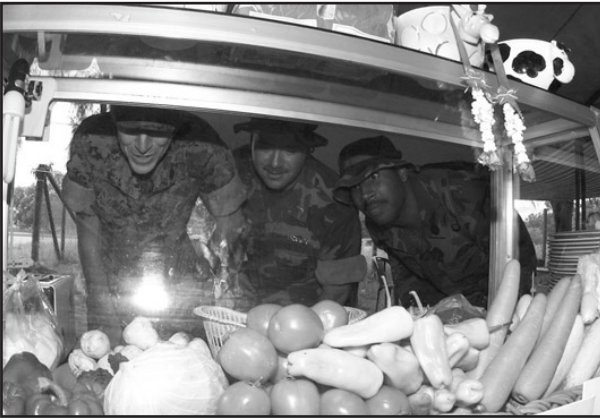
Above — Navy PO3 Maurice Cornish, a preventative medicine technician, BSSG-3, checks the expiration of some of the hair products used to cut hair at the local barbershops. Below — Sailors from Surgical Co., BSSG-3, inspect the quality of the vegetables used for cooking at one of the local food vendors.

bershops on camp for proper sanitation of clippers and to make sure straight razors weren't used to cut the hair of service members.

“If we don't check for proper sanitation of the barbershops, there could be a high risk of spreading infections such as ringworm, fungal diseases and hair lice,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Travis Congacre, preventative medicine technician, Surgical Co., BSSG-3.

All in all these inspections are a win - win situation to both the individual service member and to the group.

“Anytime we can educate the



Marines and Sailors on preventative medicine is always a rewarding experience for them and the group as a whole,” said Veenhuis. “If they stay healthy to support the brigade, we are doing our job.”



FISHER

“Easy Riders” welcome new CO



Commander Dave Fisher, left, replaced Cmdr. Donald Williamson as commanding officer of Helicopter Antisubmarine Light 37 in a change of command ceremony Thursday. Fisher previously served as the squadron's executive officer, and Williamson is scheduled to serve as the Air Boss on the USS Belleau Wood (LHA).



WILLIAMSON

Soldiers learn the language of Marines

1/12 Marines complete joint-firing exercises with the 25th Infantry Division (Light) aboard Schofield Barracks



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Private First Class Boo Jernigan, a gunner for Bravo Co., 1/12, looks through an M137 Panoramic Telescope to accurately sight in on a target.

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Marines from 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, packed up their gear May 12 and stormed onto Schofield Barracks to train with soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division (Light) to accomplish a variety of joint-firing exercises.

The main goal behind the intense training was for the Army and the Marines to successfully compose a mass-firing exercise where all cannons on the gunline are fired simultaneously.

This exercise requires precise timing and almost flawless communication between the units and is usually used to destroy several targets, or one large target, in a combat environment. All high-explosive rounds are coordinated to impact on the target at the same time.

“A mass-firing exercise is never easy to accomplish, especially between two units like the Army and the Marines,” said Sgt. Michael Olivo, fire direction controlman for Headquarters Battery, 1/12. “A number of things can go wrong. A cannon can misfire or each section might not get completely correct data. This will throw off the entire mission and we will not completely destroy the objective.”

Communication between different branches of service can be difficult, but since the Army and the Marines used two different types of



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Army Private Victor Cepeda, a cannoneer for Foxtrot Battery, 25th Infantry Division, fires a high-explosive round from a M198 Howitzer.

communication systems, it was an even larger obstacle. They also used different terminology associated with calling for fire and personal identification.

“It was very frustrating for us all to achieve a successful firing mission with the Army because we did not know what they were saying and they didn’t understand us either,” said Olivo. “It took quite a few missions before we figured out each others language. Afterward, every mission was a success.”

Many of the newly acquired Marines found it challenging to not only correctly carry out a firing mission under pressure, but also learn the new code the Army used.

But, with the use of more ad-

vanced equipment such as the Advanced Field Artillery Technical Data System, which coordinates and processes firing missions, the new Marines were able to make each mission a success.

“This has helped the unit learn to accomplish firing missions under pressure just as we would have to in a combat situation,” said Olivo. “The equipment we use allows less room for human error. The new Marines were able to become acquainted with it and learn to use it under stress.

“In the artillery, that is the best way to learn. When the new guys learn to operate effectively, we all come out of the field a better unit.”

MarForPac connects to Cobra Gold across the world

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
CSSG-3

ROYAL THAI MARINE BASE, CAMP SAMAE-SAN, Thailand — During the Civil War, communication between commanders and their units was achieved through a messenger on horseback. Sometimes it would take this messenger days and weeks to deliver his message. Many battles or men were probably lost because the commander’s message to move his troops did not arrive to the units on time.

Today, the communication between the commander and his units is made much easier thanks to technological advances and the more than 100 professional Marines from Detachment 2, 7th Communication Battalion, who are supporting the command element of III Marine Expeditionary Brigade during Operations Cobra Gold 2003.

“We allow the MEB commander to exercise command and control over his subordinate commands,” said Lt. Col. Paul Ziegenfuss, the chief of staff for G-6, III MEB. “It also facilitates each subordinate command’s ability to perform its warfighting functions.”

During the operation, Detachment Two’s Marines are supporting all units of III MEB by connecting them to Marine Forces Pacific and interconnecting them to high-



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Marines from Detachment 2, 7th Communications Battalion, run fiber optic cable throughout Royal Thai Marine Base, Camp Samaesan, Kingdom of Thailand.

er headquarters and the outside world.

Furthermore, the Marines connect III MEB units to secure and non-secure voice, data, single channel radio connectivity and message trafficking.

To accomplish these connections, the Marines are provided with sophisticated equipment such as a terminal satellite communication van, a digital technical control and a tactical data network.

The terminal satellite communication van connects subordinate units with access to the Internet and the defense switching network.

“This system is an invaluable tool for field commanders because it is highly mobile and versatile,” said Cpl Edward Todd, who is the ground mobile forces satellite communication site chief, Detachment 2, 7th Communications Battalion. “We can move with the units wherever they need to go.”

The new digital technical control acquires the satellite signal provided by the satellite van and distributes it to the telephones and data networks of subordinate units of III MEB.

“The DTC allows multiple connections through a single piece of equipment vice the multi-equipment string that were required on the previous systems,” said Todd. “In other words, it takes the capabilities we had before and condenses them into a smaller and more manageable piece of equipment.”

Another valuable piece of equipment is the tactical data network, which gives III MEB the availability to connect with the coalition network so that Thai, Malaysian, Singaporean, and American units can transfer secret data to each other.

“Without these tools and the experts who operate them, the overall communication goals of this combined operation can’t be met,” said Todd.

Word on the Street

What are your plans for Memorial Day weekend?



“I get to go to PTA on a working party.”

Lance Cpl. Tyrell Hollen
Crew chief
HMH-362



“I am going to go to Pearl Harbor with my girlfriend”

Cpl. Kevin Truong
Supply clerk
Headquarters Co.,
3rd Marine Regiment



“I am going to go and visit my mom and dad’s graves.”

Patricia Kahapea
Bank teller
Bank of Hawaii



“I have a lot of homework, but I am going to take my family out somewhere.”

Sgt. Arturo Vigil
Auditor
Marine Corps
non-appropriated
fund service



“I am going to catch up on some sleep before PTA.”

Petty Officer 2nd Class George Velasquez
Hospital corpsmen
Bravo Co.,
1/12

New boots available only from authorized sources



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

The old version of the Marine Corps combat boot is authorized for wear until 2005.

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

Recently, the Marine Corps has changed the way Marines look with the introduction of new combat utility uniforms.

With these changes of uniforms, new combat boots are authorized for wear and are available at the Military Clothing and Sales Stores of the Marine Corps Exchange, American Armed Forced Exchange Service and the NEXCON on-line website.

Currently, there are two companies authorized to manufacture the Marine Corps Combat Boots. These companies are Bates Wolverine and

Bellville Shoe Manufacturing.

Only these companies manufacture uniform items that comply with the established standards for material, design and manufacture.

The new combat boots, which have rough-side out leather and are brown in color, have two versions; an improved infantry combat boot for temperate climates and a jungle desert boot for hot weather.

The new combat boots are authorized for wear with the woodland combat utility uniform until no longer serviceable.

Commanders are encouraged to reinforce that the combat boot and utility uniform can be obtained only through authorized sources. This can also insure that Marines do not spend money on uniform items they are not authorized to wear.



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

The new combat boots have two versions; an improved infantry combat boot for temperate climates and a jungle desert boot.



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Students from the Contemporary Christian Choir of Lee University, Cleveland, Tenn., put on a spiritually-lifting performance at the Base Theater May 13, for residents of MCB Hawaii.

Lee Univ. choir sings to K-Bay

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

To educate students at universities on the diverse cultures across the world, many colleges require their pupils to attend a cross-cultural trip to a selected geographical location in order to gain a first-hand experience about the region’s cultural history.

Students from the Contemporary Christian Choir of Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn., arrived on the island of Oahu for a cross-cultural trip to learn about the exotic Hawaiian culture.

During their stay in Hawaii, the more than 50 students visited five of the eight Hawaiian Islands and sang inspirational music to several churches throughout Hawaii.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii was one of the ir scheduled stops where they performed for base residents at the Base Theater May 13.

The choir decided to come to K-Bay after speaking with chaplains representing different battalions. They wanted to meet the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces.

“We wanted to show the Marines the joy in religious activities,” said Dr. Walt Mauldin, choir director for the Lee University Choir. “We came a long way to be here in Hawaii, and we are really honored to be able to perform for the Marines here. I am so proud of the men and women who are serving our country and protecting our freedom.”

During the performance, the choir played a variety of upbeat Christian tunes along with a collaboration of patriotic tunes. Before the choir departed, they said a prayer for all the service members across the world that are away from home and serving in combat.

“I loved my trip to Hawaii. I never met anyone in the Marines before and I never imagined that I would perform on a Marine Corps base,” said Jessica Cohler, a communications major at Lee University and a member of the choir. “I was able to see some wonderful sites while I was here, but I will always remember the (Iwo Jima memorial) at the front gate. I have a lot of respect for the Marines now that I have been able to learn about what they do and the sacrifices they make.”

Scholarship winner



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Jose Alvarez, 17, a senior at Windward Christian Home School, received a college scholarship for \$1,845 from the All-Enlisted Spouses Club during an awards reception May 16. Alvarez received the top scholarship along with seven others who also received scholarships. Alvarez will graduate high school May 31 and plans to go to Biola University in Los Angeles then join the Marine Corps as a pilot.

SECNAV, From A-1

Hawaii. The Secretary of the Navy asked Sailors how they thought the new equipment assisted in accomplishing their missions and safely landing the aircraft.

While at Hanger 103, Johnson spoke with Marines from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment and Sailors from Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light 37.

He congratulated the Marines from 2/3 on a successful return from their deployment to Okinawa, Japan.

He further thanked and congratulated the Sailors from HSL 37 for the sacrifices and contributions the Sailors made during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Johnson continued to tell the Marines and Sailors of how proud he was of their recent accomplishments and allowed them to ask any questions they had about future plans for the Navy



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Johnson talks with Marines and Sailors in front of Hanger 103 about their recent deployments.

and Marine Corps.

He told the Marines and Sailors aboard K-Bay he was highly impressed with their esprit de corps and the partnership they displayed amongst the two branches.

“I wanted to welcome all of you home once

again,” said Johnson in his closing remarks. “I am confident that as we move forward, you will be called upon again and again and each time, you will answer the call of duty and perform as well then as you have in the past.”

MCPON frocks VP-4 Chief



Picture courtesy of VP-4

On April 25, Aviation Machinist’s Mate Chief Petty Officer Kelvin Jacobs (center), attached to Patrol Squadron 4, was surprised by Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Terry Scott when he personally “frosted” Chief Jacobs to Senior Chief Petty Officer in the VP-4 squadron spaces.